

David's distinguished career and experience in Federal housing assistance has been a blessing to Champaign County. While we will certainly miss him in Illinois, we wish him the very best as he begins a new journey as the president and CEO of the Housing Authority of Birmingham District in Alabama, the largest in the State.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, wish to thank my friend David Northern for his service to Champaign County and congratulate him and wish him the best in his new home in Alabama.

REMEMBERING DAVID PICKETT

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of David Pickett, my friend from Taylorville, Illinois, who sadly passed away right before Christmas.

David graduated from Taylorville High School in 1977, and then graduated from Western Illinois University in 1981, with degrees in accounting and computer science.

He will be remembered in our community for his entrepreneurial spirit, his photography skills, and for his love of sharing with others in the community. His most memorable feat in Taylorville will be taking the hobby of photography and turning it into a business called Fun Photo. It was his own sports photography business. I saw David at sports events, and I still have pictures of my young kids in youth football and youth baseball that line my household because David was there. He was part of our community and he was part of our kids.

David was an avid fisherman, a die-hard Cardinals fan. He had a talent for cooking and loved to entertain his friends and family. His vibrant personality and remarkable smile will be missed.

I really wish the best for his family right now. It is a sorrowful loss for them, but also everybody in our hometown of Taylorville. Shannon and my kids send our thoughts and prayers to his wife, Debbie; his children, Mark and J.D.; his grandchildren, Libbey, Bennett, Jamison, Charlotte, and Connor; his parents, James and Mary; and his siblings, Linda and Tom.

David, may you rest in peace, my friend.

REMEMBERING ROSEMARIE LONG

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day today. Last night, not just my good friend, but a great friend to our community and Sangamon County, Illinois, passed away.

Rosemarie Long was somebody who I came to know as the head of our local Republican Party in Springfield, Illinois. I can tell you that Rose Long gave such good advice and great mentorship to many people like me and others who have walked this institution. Rose Long was somebody who cared about her community and cared about making her country better.

My heart goes out to her family at this trying time, and I certainly want them to know that I know without

Rose's guidance, without Rose's friendship, without Rose's support, I would not be blessed to serve as a Member of Congress.

One thing about Rose, she was not shy, at all, of letting me know her concerns about what we may or may not be doing right for her in this institution. I cannot believe that Rose is gone. I cannot believe that the world is going to be a better place without her. But I know one place that will be better with her, and that is Heaven.

Good luck, my friend. May you rest in peace, and may God continue to bless you and your family at this very sorrowful time.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 12 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. DEMINGS) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

O Holy God, we humble ourselves before You, coming to You in prayer as thousands across the globe and hundreds within this Congress have done on this day of the National Prayer Breakfast. We pause to lay before You ourselves, our hopes, our dreams, our frustrations, and our anger, keenly aware of Your sovereignty over our lives, and our failures in living them.

Even as we kneel before You, anoint us with Your mercy and lift up our eyes to Your grace. Shine Your redemptive light on us that we reflect the love that You have shown to us that our attitudes toward each other and to the tasks You set before us would be changed to demonstrate the benevolent plan You desire to share with each one and with this country.

As Your people, holy and dearly loved, we commit to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Forgiven by Your mercy, we devote ourselves to bear with one another and to forgive the grievances we have against another.

So transformed, may we live lives of reconciliation, not as a political position but in a posture of compassion. And with these virtues we will choose this day to love, that we would be bound together in perfect unity by the strength of Your most holy name in which we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(A) of House Resolution 8, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COSTA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

MEDICAL EDUCATION IN RURAL DISTRICTS

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the urgent need to address doctor shortages in rural and medically underserved communities throughout our country. The current pandemic and problems with vaccine distribution have highlighted the dangers behind a lack of access to the quality of healthcare in these areas. I am working to change that right now.

Unlike producing personal protective equipment, it takes years to train a physician. This week, I will introduce legislation to invest in medical education and to create new medical schools throughout this country and in underserved communities like mine in the San Joaquin Valley.

This bill will help curb the shortfall of physicians in rural areas by enabling medical students to stay close to home. Studies increasingly show that students who can study close to home are more likely to stay there and practice there upon graduation.

If we want to keep the promise that every American who wants a vaccine will get one, then we need to have more doctors, nurses, and medical providers throughout our country. This legislation would do just that.

Helping my constituents and keeping them safe is my number one priority. I will continue to do whatever it takes to make that happen. This is important legislation, and I ask my colleagues to support this legislation in a bipartisan basis.

REAL COVID RELIEF

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)